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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/889,693	07/20/2001	Eietsu Sasaki	740670-262	7377
31780	7590	02/19/2004	EXAMINER	
ERIC ROBINSON PMB 955 21010 SOUTHBANK ST. POTOMAC FALLS, VA 20165			LESPERANCE, JEAN E	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		2674

DATE MAILED: 02/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/889,693	SASAKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jean E Lesperance	2674	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-13 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 10 recites the limitation "the electrical device mounted on the vehicle" in lines 3 and 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The electrical device should be replaced by "an electrical device" and the vehicle should be replaced by "a vehicle". Correction is required.

Claim 11 recites the limitation "the acoustic device mounted on the vehicle to adjust the sound volume" in lines 3 and 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The acoustic device should be replaced by "an acoustic device", the vehicle should be replaced by "a vehicle" and the sound volume should be replaced by "a sound volume". Correction is required.

Claim 12 recites the limitation "the acoustic device mounted on the vehicle to instruct a track number of the recording medium" in lines 3 and 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The acoustic device should be replaced by "an acoustic device", the vehicle should be replaced by "a vehicle" and the recording medium should be replaced by "a recording medium". Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over the Japanese Kokai Patent Application No. Sho 60[1985]-243730 ("Toru et al.").

As to claims 1-3, 6, and 9, Toru et al. teach the screen of information display device Fig.3 (33) like the way the conventional touch panel utilized corresponding to a display device having a display screen; the user moves a finger from an arbitrary position to another arbitrary position on the direction input detector Fig.3 (33) corresponding to a touch panel, which is provided on the display screen; information processor Fig.3 (35) corresponding to the specifying means for specifying an action commanded by the operator touching the touch panel in accordance with the positional information; coordinate signals representing the track of the finger moved by the user are sent to direction input detector control part Fig.3 (32) corresponding to the control means for outputting a control signal in accordance with an output of said specifying means; upon receiving the series of pieces of coordinate information, reception buffer Fig.3 (35) extracts the first and the last pieces of coordinate information as coordinates of the start and end points of the track of the finger moved by the user corresponding to wherein said specifying means detects said contact point moved from one end portion of said touch panel to another end portion. The prior art does not explicitly teach the end

portions located at four corner areas of said touch panel. However, the prior art teaches the start and end points of the track of the finger moved by the user.

Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the start and end points of the track of the finger moved by the user as taught by the prior art to achieve the end portions located at four corner areas of said touch panel because this would provide a method in which direction information can be input using an image almost identical to the one the user images.

As to claims 4, 5, 7, and 8, Toru et al. teach information processor Fig.3 (35) carries out image processing for flipping the page to the left on the information display device 33 based on the pieces of direction information (number of movements) identified in said manner corresponding to said specifying means specifies said action commanded by the operator from the number of movements or movement of speed of the detected contact point.

As for claim 10-13, Toru et al. teach a direction input arbitrarily from the direction input detector 33 is classified into one of a total of three directions that is vertical, horizontal and diagonal corresponding to the movement of the contact point in the peripheral portion of said touch panel occurs in longitudinal direction of said touch panel, coordinate signals representing the track of the finger moved by the user are sent to direction input detector control part Fig.3 (32) where it is inherent for the control signal to increase or decrease a set of value of the electrical device or to adjust a volume or to instruct a track number of the recording medium corresponding to said control means outputs a control signal.